

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04406 161941Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05  
IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-13  
/106 W

-----170525Z 066206 /20

R 161907Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1627  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 04406

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP EAIR UV XY US  
SUBJECT: CONTINUING SAGA OF PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES  
(PAAI)

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 938, STATE 48828. LONDON 3100

1. MATCHET'S DIARY IN MARCH 14 ISSUE OF "WEST AFRICA"  
MAGAZINE FEATURES PAAI'S "WHITE KNIGHTS?" IT DESCRIBES  
PAAI'S DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FINANCE. DEVELOPMENTAL  
ASPECTS OF PROJECT AND POSSIBLE "BEHIND THE SCENES"  
FRENCH OPPOSITION. IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT:  
"COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE NOT THE ONLY REASON FOR  
PAAFL, HOWEVER, FOR THE AIR LINE IS PART OF THE PAN-  
AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES GROUP, A COMPANY WHICH RUMOR HAS  
CONSISTENTLY CONNECTED WITH THE AMERICAN CIA. SEVERAL OF  
THOSE INVOLVED IN RUNNING PAAFL ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE CON-  
NECTIONS WITH AIR AMERICA, THE ACKNOWLEDGED CIA AIR LINE,  
AND OTHER OBSERVERS HAVE POINTED TO THE ADVANTAGES FOR  
ANY WOULD-BE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ORGANIZATION TO HAVE  
AIRCRAFT CONSTANTLY FLYING IN AND OUT OF RURAL AIRFIELDS  
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ALL OVER AFRICA. PAN-AFRICAN AIRWAYS HAVE ALSO BEEN  
LINKED WITH AFFRETAIR (WHICH WAS MERGED WITH AIR GABON  
LAST YEAR), THE COMPANY WHICH FLEW RHODESIAN GOODS TO  
OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN DEFIANCE OF UN SANCTIONS."

2. MATCHET ADDS THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS REMAIN "AT THE  
LEVEL OF RUMOR, THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN SOME TACIT

SUPPORT BY THE CONTINUED SILENCE OF PAAFL'S PRIVATE BACKERS, AND BY THE RETICENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF PAAFL REALLY WAS A CIA "FRONT", ITS ABILITY TO ATTRACT ATTENTION WOULD SEEM TO BE A FATAL LIABILITY. AND THERE REMAINS THE UNANSWERED QUESTION OF WHETHER THE AMBITIOUS PLANS OF PAAFL TO AIR-FREIGHT GOODS ALL OVER WEST AFRICA AT VERY LOW COST ARE REALLY FINANCIALLY VIABLE. OBVIOUSLY, THE BANKS ARE CAUTIOUS, AND THE FACT THAT OUAGADOUGOU AIRFIELD IS PRONE TO BEING OBSCURED BY DUST MUST ADD TO THAT WARINESS. DEALS INVOLVING AIRCRAFT SALES TO AFRICAN-BASED COMPANIES DO NOT HAVE A GOOD RECORD AND THE UPPER VOLTA GOVERNMENT MUST BE COMMENDED FOR ITS CAUTION, MAINTAINED DESPITE THE VERY FAVORABLE TERMS OFFERED BY PAAFL."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AIRLINES, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 77 OUAGADOUGOU 938, 77 STATE 48828  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3088852  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINUING SAGA OF PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)  
**TAGS:** BEXP, EAIR, UV, XY, US, PAAI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009